

REMARKS

Claims presented for prosecution in this Application are claims 1, 2, 4-11 and 13-19, claims 3, 12 and 20 being canceled by the present amendment. Claims 1, 2, 4-11 and 13-20 have been rejected over cited prior art, while claims 3 and 12 have been objected to as containing allowable subject matter, but depending from a rejected base claim. In view of Applicants' remarks below, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 4-11 and 13-19 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the present Response be considered and entered, the rejections to the claims be withdrawn, and that the case now be passed to issue.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection of Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 9-11, 13-14, 16 and 18-20 over Oliver

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 9-11, 13-14, 16 and 18-20 as being anticipated by Oliver. Applicants traverses this rejection and respectfully assert that Oliver does not disclose or render obvious at least each and every element of, at least, newly amended independent claims 1 and 10.

Without conceding to the validity of the outstanding rejection, and merely in an attempt to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the recitations of previously-dependent claim 3. Claim 3 has been canceled. Given that Applicants have amended claim 1 in conformance with the Examiner's indication that claim 3 contains allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that newly amended claim 1 now clearly distinguishes over the cited prior art of record.

Likewise, and again without conceding to the validity of the outstanding rejection, and merely in an attempt to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 10 to include the recitations of previously-dependent claim 12. Claim 12 has been canceled. Given that Applicants have amended claim 10 in conformance with the Examiner's indication that claim 12 contains allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that newly amended claim 10 now clearly distinguishes over the cited prior art of record.

Applicants note that claim 20 has been canceled in order to advance prosecution.

In view of the above, Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the existing rejection of claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 9-11, 13-14, 16 and 18-20 on this basis alone.

Applicant earnestly believes that independent claims 1 and 10 clearly define over the cited prior art, however, should the Examiner believe that there remains any outstanding issues, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Applicants' Representative so as to expedite resolution of these outstanding issues.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection of Claims 1-2, 4-11 and 13-20 over Savioli

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 4-11 and 13-20 as being anticipated by Savioli. Applicants traverses this rejection and respectfully assert that Savioli does not disclose or render obvious at least each and every element of, at least, newly amended independent claims 1 and 10.

Without conceding to the validity of the outstanding rejection, and merely in an attempt to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the recitations of previously-dependent claim 3. Claim 3 has been canceled. Given that Applicants have amended claim 1 in conformance with the Examiner's indication that claim 3 contains allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that newly amended claim 1 now clearly distinguishes over the cited prior art of record.

Likewise, and again without conceding to the validity of the outstanding rejection, and merely in an attempt to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 10 to include the recitations of previously-dependent claim 12. Claim 12 has been canceled. Given that Applicants have amended claim 10 in conformance with the Examiner's indication that claim 12 contains allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that newly amended claim 10 now clearly distinguishes over the cited prior art of record.

Applicants note that claim 20 has been canceled in order to advance prosecution.

In view of the above, Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the existing rejection of claims 1-2, 4-11 and 13-20 on this basis alone.

Applicant earnestly believes that independent claims 1 and 10 clearly define over the cited prior art, however, should the Examiner believe that there remains any outstanding issues, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Applicants' Representative so as to expedite resolution of these outstanding issues.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection of Claims 1-2, 8, 10-11, 17 and 19-20 over Harvey

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 8, 10-11, 17 and 19-20 as being anticipated by Harvey. Applicants traverses this rejection and respectfully assert that Harvey does not disclose or render obvious at least each and every element of, at least, newly amended independent claims 1 and 10.

Without conceding to the validity of the outstanding rejection, and merely in an attempt to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the recitations of previously-dependent claim 3. Claim 3 has been canceled. Given that Applicants have amended claim 1 in conformance with the Examiner's indication that claim 3 contains allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that newly amended claim 1 now clearly distinguishes over the cited prior art of record.

Likewise, and again without conceding to the validity of the outstanding rejection, and merely in an attempt to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 10 to include the recitations of previously-dependent claim 12. Claim 12 has been canceled. Given that Applicants have amended claim 10 in conformance with the Examiner's indication that claim 12 contains allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that newly amended claim 10 now clearly distinguishes over the cited prior art of record.

Applicants note that claim 20 has been canceled in order to advance prosecution.

In view of the above, Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the existing rejection of claims 1-2, 8, 10-11, 17 and 19-20 on this basis alone.

Applicant earnestly believes that independent claims 1 and 10 clearly define over the cited prior art, however, should the Examiner believe that there remains any outstanding issues, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Applicants' Representative so as to expedite resolution of these outstanding issues.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 4-11 and 13-19 are allowable, and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Applicants submit that the present Amendment After Final is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner and contains no new matter. Further, Applicants believe that the present Amendment is merely formal in nature, is in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, reduces the number of issues under consideration and places the case in condition for allowance. Applicants believe the present Amendment was necessitated by the outstanding Final Office Action and submits that the present amendments to the claims were not previously made as the prior claims were believed to be allowable over the cited prior art.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the present Amendment After Final be entered under 37 CFR § 1.116 and the case be passed to issue.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below to expedite resolution of any issues that the Examiner may consider to remain unresolved. In particular, should a Notice of Allowance not be forthcoming, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned for a telephonic interview, an Examiner's Amendment, or the like, while the outstanding issues are fresh in the mind of the Examiner.

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 13-0235 for any fees owed for the accompanying Two Month Extension of Time. No other fees are considered to be due; however, if it is determined that payment of a fee is required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 13-0235 for these fees as well.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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